MARVEL LEGACY KINGPINS OF NEW YORK PART 1

DAREDEVIL • LUKE CAGE • JESSICA JONES • IRON FIST

THE DEFENDERS™

6

BENDIS
MARQUEZ
PONSOR

NOW WITH ADDED DEADPOOL!

MARQUEZ 2016 J-Po?

THE DEFENDERS

WRITER
BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS

ARTIST
DAVID MARQUEZ

COLOR ARTIST
JUSTIN PONSOR

LETTERER
VC's CORY PETIT

COVER ARTISTS
DAVID MARQUEZ & JUSTIN PONSOR

VARIANT COVER ARTISTS
SZYMON KUDRANSKI & FRANK D'ARMATA after JACK KIRBY & SOL BRODSKY; MIKE McKONE, ANDY TROY & RACHELLE ROSENBERG; CHIP ZDARSKY

ASSISTANT EDITOR
ALANNA SMITH

EDITOR
TOM BREVOORT

EDITOR IN CHIEF
AXEL ALONSO

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
JOE QUESADA

PRESIDENT
DAN BUCKLEY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
ALAN FINE

© 2017 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. WWW.MARVEL.COM

PICK ONE.

EVEN FOR NEW YORK CITY THERE IS TOO MUCH %#@$ GOING DOWN.

TOO MANY PEOPLE SEEM OVERLY EAGER TO PREY ON OTHER PEOPLE.

AND IT IS GETTING SO THE GOOD PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO LEAVE THE HOUSE ANYMORE.

IT'S INSANE.

I HAVE A KID NOW.

A DAUGHTER...

AND THIS IS *NOT* THE WORLD I THOUGHT WE WERE SETTING UP FOR HER.

THIS %#@$ AIN'T WORKING LIKE IT WAS.

MAYBE I'M GETTIN' IMMUNE.

THAT AIN'T GOOD.

TOMORROW'S PROBLEM.

JUST NEED TO GET HOME.

I THOUGHT, BY NOW, THINGS WERE GOING TO BE SO MUCH BETTER.

AND NOW, SOMETIMES, IT EVEN FEELS LIKE EVERYTHING IS TURNING BACKWARDS.

UGH...

I'M NOT NUTS, RIGHT?

IT REALLY FEELS THAT WAY TO ME.

EVERYTHING JUST CHANGED.

HUAGH!

NOW WE'RE TALKIN'.

WE GOT RID OF THE KINGPIN AND NOW WE HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT GUYS LIKE DIAMONDBACK?!

GSSKK!

AND THE BLACK CAT.

BOTH FIGHTING OVER THE SAME TERRITORY.

FIGHTING OVER WHO GETS TO SQUEEZE THE CITY INTO PULP FIRST...

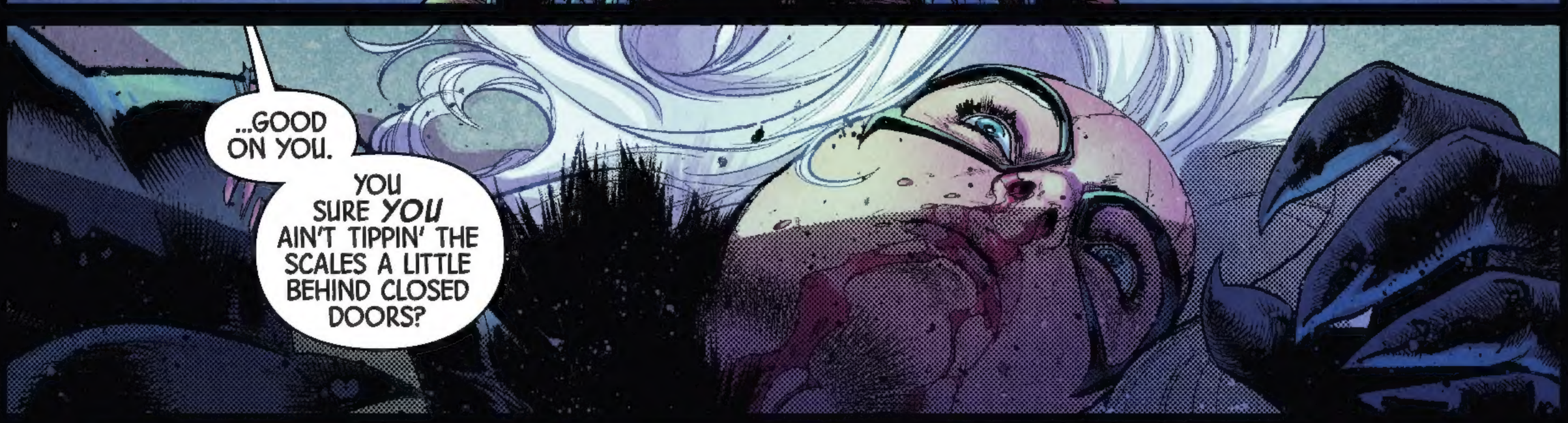
CAN YOU BELIEVE *THERE'S A LINE* TO BE THE KINGPIN?

AIEAA!

SMASHH

AGH...
DIAMONDBACK DOESN'T EVEN SEEM TO WANT TO FOLLOW *ANY* RULES...

...ON ANY CONCEIVABLE LEVEL.
DAMN, CAT, IF I HADN'T JACKED *MYSELF* UP A MINUTE AGO, I THINK YOU WOULDA REALLY GUTTED ME BACK THERE.
I ACTUALLY DIDN'T THINK YOU HAD THAT IN YA.
AND WITH ALL THE GUNSHOTS IN YA AND EVERYTHING...


...GOOD ON YOU.
YOU SURE *YOU* AIN'T TIPPIN' THE SCALES A LITTLE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS?

DIAMONDBACK IS THE *LAST* THING WE NEED.
"WE" MEANING US *AND* THE CITY.
YET *HERE* HE IS.

SPOK

HEY...

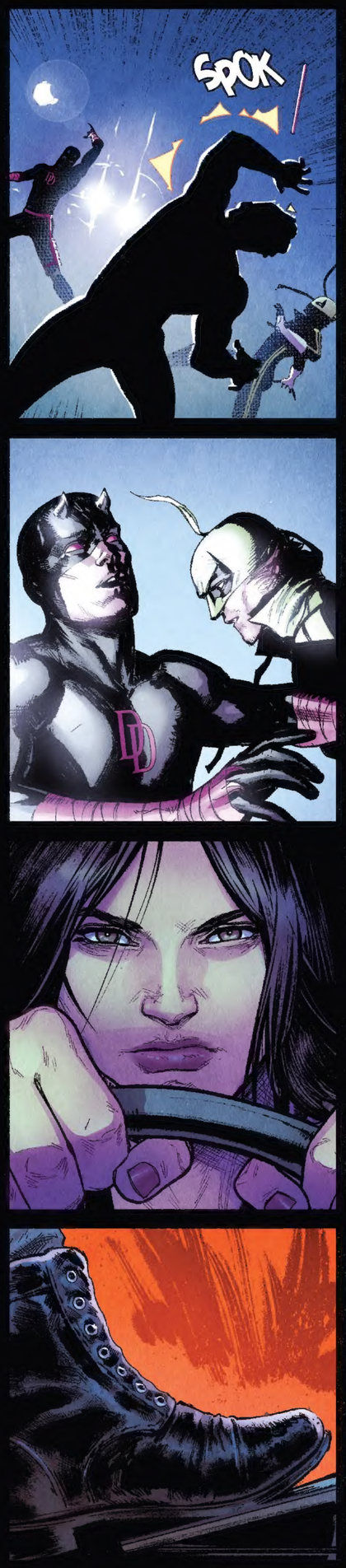
BOOM

PUNK-ASS #@%$&#%, I ALREADY HIT YOU AT HOME ONCE!
YOU DON'T TAKE THE HINT!

I KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE.
I'M NOT WORRIED. MY BUILDING HAS A...
...DOORMAN.

THERE'S JUST SOMETHING ABOUT HIM.

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I CAN SEE IT BRINGS UP ALL KINDS OF STUFF MY HUSBAND DOESN'T WANT TO DEAL WITH...
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE WE KNOW IF WE BLOW IT...

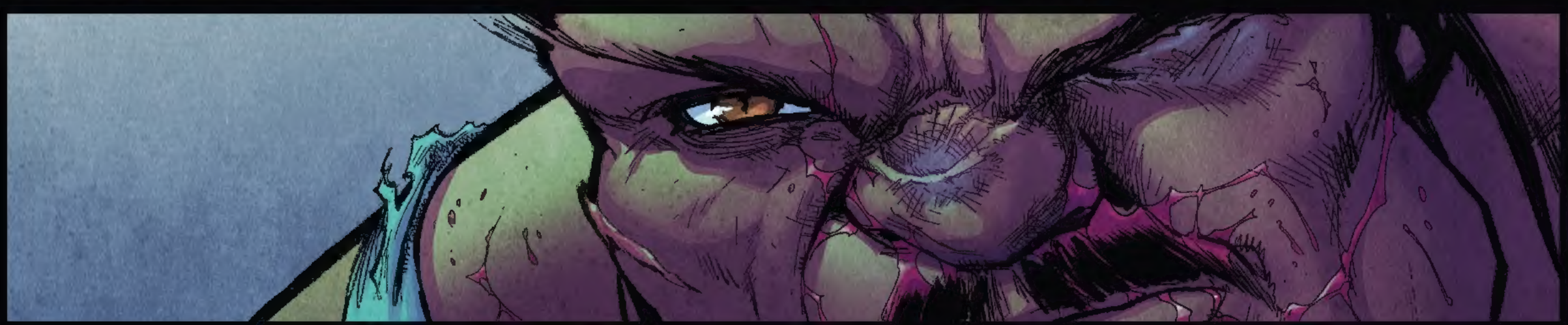

SPOK

UH...
OW.
WELL, CARL, I'M SURE YOU GOTTA LOTTA QUESTIONS FOR ME.

SURE...WHERE YA BEEN ALL THIS TIME?
HOW ARE YA NOT DEAD?
HOW COULD YOU SET ME UP ALL THOSE YEARS AGO?
HOW COULD YOU GO AND TRY TO RUIN BOTH OF US WHEN I LOVED YOU LIKE A BROTHER?

SURE...
PUH...
...FOR STARTERS.

TURNS OUT, I REALLY DON'T CARE.



AW, GOOD FOR YOU, BABY.
(PLEASE DON'T...RUIN THE MOMENT.)
(SORRY.)

SMUG SINCE THE DAY YOU WAS BORN.

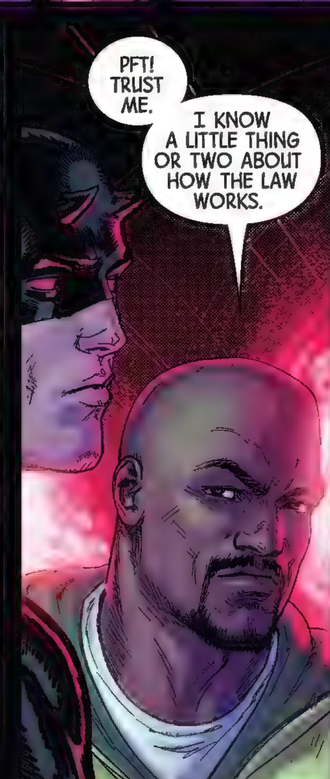
I'LL GET US A NEW ONE.
UH-HUH.
DANNY WILL.
I KNEW WHAT YOU MEANT.

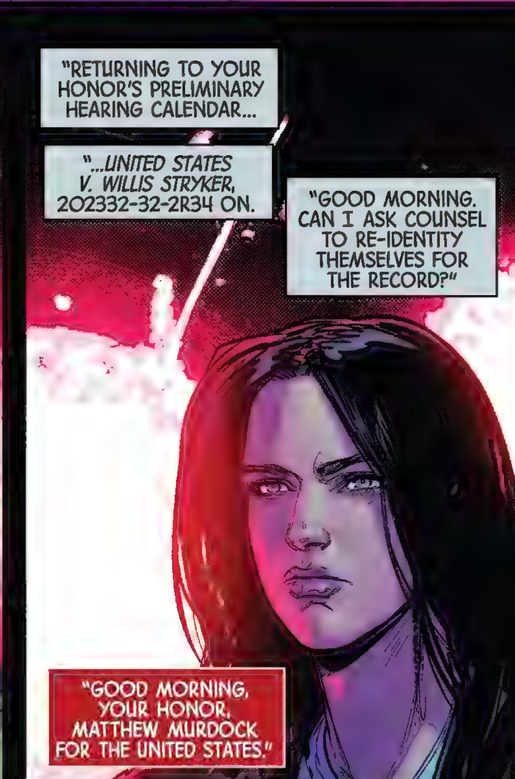
EMPALED

WELL, I FEEL BETTER.
THIS ISN'T GOOD.
REALLY, IT FELT GREAT.

HI, POLICE ARE ON THE WAY.
I CAN ALREADY HEAR THEM.
BREATHE.
→COFF←

THE COURTS ARE GOING TO TOSS THIS
NUH-UH.
HE'S AN ESCAPED CONVICT.
WE CAPTURED HIM ON THE RUN.
HE'LL WALK.

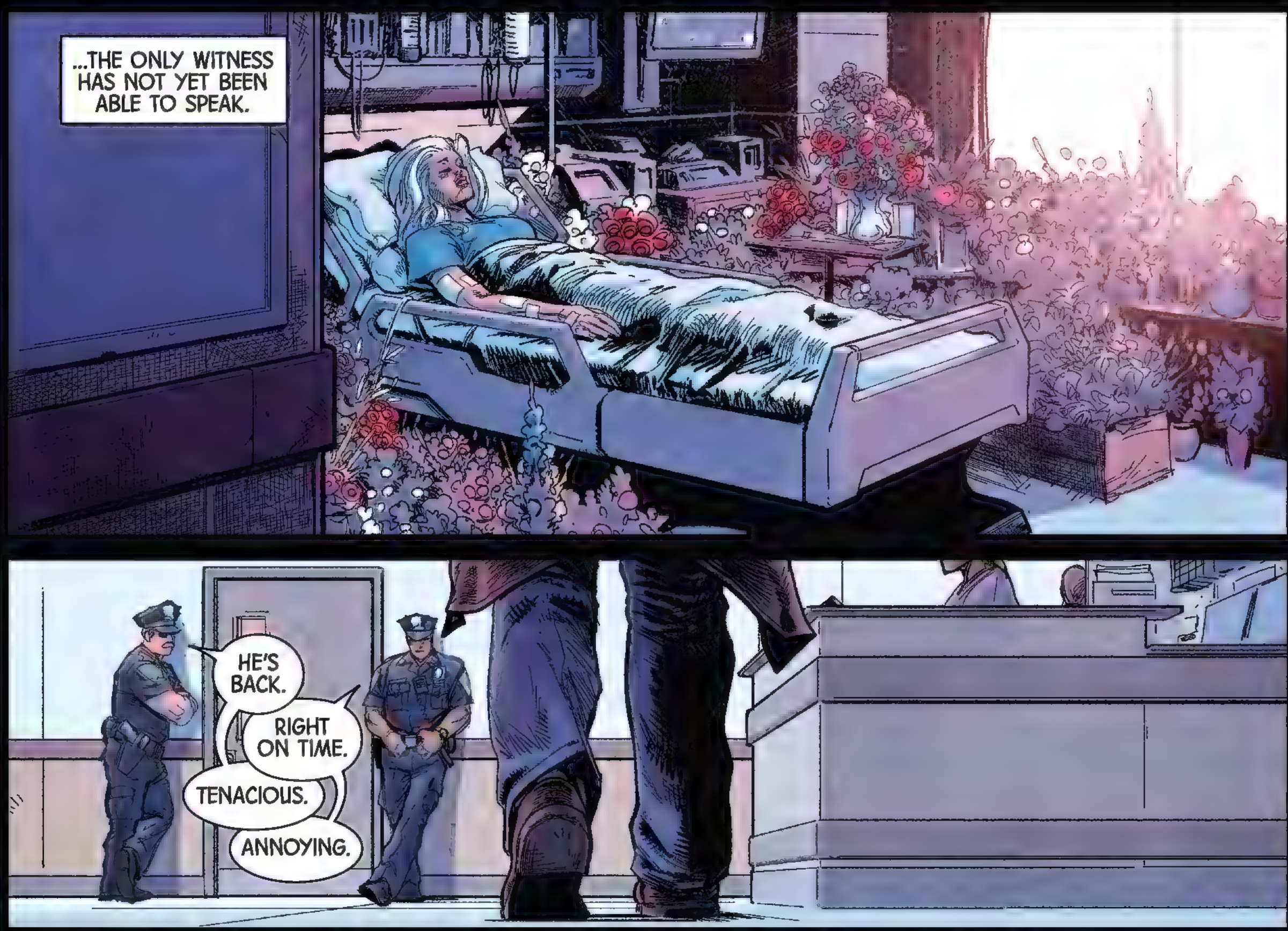

PFT! TRUST ME.
I KNOW A LITTLE THING OR TWO ABOUT HOW THE LAW WORKS.


"RETURNING TO YOUR HONOR'S PRELIMINARY HEARING CALENDAR...
"...UNITED STATES V. WILLIS STRYKER, 202332-32-2R34 ON.
"GOOD MORNING. CAN I ASK COUNSEL TO RE-IDENTITY THEMSELVES FOR THE RECORD?"
"GOOD MORNING, YOUR HONOR. MATTHEW MURDOCK FOR THE UNITED STATES."

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.
ARTIST RENDERINGS COURTESY OF THE PULSE
COPYRIGHT DAILYBUGLE.COM, USED WITH PERMISSION.
YOUR HONOR-- THIS MAN, WILLIS STRYKER, IS A VICTIM.
LOOK AT HIM!
A VICTIM OF VIOLENT CIRCUMSTANCE EXACERBATED BY THE VIRUS OF VIGILANTISM THAT STRANGLES THIS CITY HALF TO DEATH ON A NIGHTLY BASIS!
YOUR HONOR...
I DO BELIEVE HE'S TALKING ABOUT US.
HE'S TALKING ABOUT YOU, DANNY.
SHH.
HE HAS BEEN SAVAGELY BEATEN BY MURDEROUS, THUG-LIKE VIGILANTES.
THEY HAVE ADMITTED, IN THE PRESS, TO STALKING AND PREYING ON HIM.
THEY HAVE ADMITTED TO TARGETING HIM.
THEY ARE IN COURT TODAY TO INTIMIDATE HIM.
DOESN'T MR. STRYKER DESERVE ALL THE SAME RIGHTS AS THE REST OF US?

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF, ONE DAY, ONE OF THOSE SPIDER-MANS OR DAREDEVILS OR ONE OF THOSE OUT-OF-CONTROL MUTANTS DECIDED TO TARGET *YOU?*
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF LUKE CAGE THREW A CAR AT YOU BECAUSE HE DIDN'T LIKE THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE?
YOUR HONOR, YOU *MUST* LET THIS MAN SEE HIS DAY IN COURT.
YOUR HONOR, IF IT PLEASE THE COURT, THE PROSECUTION WOULD LIKE TO REMIND COUNSEL THAT MISTER STRYKER *WAS IN POLICE CUSTODY* AND PARTICIPATED IN A VIOLENT ESCAPE.
MR. CAGE AND HIS ASSOCIATES WERE ABLE TO SERVE THE IMMEDIATE PUBLIC INTEREST BY STOPPING HIM BEFORE--
YES! LET'S TALK ABOUT THE *DEFENDERS.*
MY CLIENT DID NOT ESCAPE CUSTODY.
MY CLIENT ESCAPED THE MURDEROUS RAMPAGE OF *FRANK CASTLE.*
FRANK CASTLE ESCAPED.
MR. STRYKER *RAN FOR HIS LIFE* AND WAS LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SURRENDER TO AUTHORITIES WHEN HE WAS VICIOUSLY ATTACKED.
HE'S A MURDERING DRUG DEALER AND *HE SHOT A WOMAN THAT NIGHT!*
THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF *ANY* OF THAT!
SHE'S IN THE HOSPITAL!
LUKE--

THERE WILL BE ORDER!
AND THESE *DEFENDERS* ARE *STILL* DESPERATELY TRYING TO PIN ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING ON HIM.
BECAUSE IF THEY ARE WRONG, OR LYING, THEN THAT IS BAD FOR THEIR BUSINESS.
MY CLIENT WAS BEING CARTED AWAY TO JAIL, HELD WITHOUT TRIAL, BECAUSE FOR SOME REASON, S.H.I.E.L.D. MADE IT LEGAL FOR THIS GOVERNMENT TO HOLD ANYONE BORN WITH SPECIAL POWERS WITHOUT PROPER DUE PROCESS.
BUT S.H.I.E.L.D. IS NO MORE, AND I SAY IT IS THIS COURT'S IMMEDIATE AND HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY TO PUT THE DAYS OF TREATING OUR POWERED CIVILIANS LIKE SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS IN THE HISTORY BOOKS.
WILLIS STRYKER IS A VICTIM OF VIOLENT CIRCUMSTANCES BECAUSE OF HIS BIRTHRIGHT!
I CAN ONLY HOPE TO THE GREAT GOD ABOVE THAT THIS CASE OPENS A DEEP INVESTIGATION INTO HOW THIS CITY AND STATE HANDLES VIGILANTISM!
AFTER CAREFUL REVIEW OF THE NOTES AS WELL AS REVIEWING, AT LENGTH, THE TRANSCRIPTS THAT WERE SUBMITTED, I DO BELIEVE THE COMMONWEALTH HAS MET A *PRIMA FACIE* BURDEN ON THE CHARGES AS LISTED IN THE CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS.
OBVIOUSLY, THESE CASES WILL, IN FACT, MOVE FORWARD.
WE'RE GOING TO TRIAL.
THE BAIL *WILL* REMAIN AS SET.
THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.
YOUR HONOR!
MR. STRYKER'S PASSPORT WILL REMAIN CONFISCATED AS PART OF A BAIL ARRANGEMENT.
COURT IS NOW DISMISSED AS WE TAKE CARE OF SOME MINOR PAPERWORK...
HE HASN'T BEEN CHARGED WITH THE ATTEMPTED MURDER OF *THE BLACK CAT* BECAUSE...


...THE ONLY WITNESS HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO SPEAK.
HE'S BACK.
RIGHT ON TIME.
TENACIOUS.
ANNOYING.

OFFICERS, BEN URICH.
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER FOR THE *DAILY BUGLE*.
DOT COM.
IS SHE AWAKE?
EVERY TIME, YOU GONNA SAY YOUR NAME LIKE THAT?
JUST WANT TO KEEP EVERYTHING ON THE UP AND UP.
I MEAN, *EVERY DAY?* WE REMEMBER.
IS *THE BLACK CAT* AWAKE?

YOU DON'T FEEL WEIRD SAYING YOUR NAME LIKE THAT?
DID SHE COMMENT ON DIAMONDBACK FINALLY MAKING BAIL?
WHEN DID *THIS* HAPPEN?
TEN MINUTES AGO.

WELL, NO, SHE DIDN'T.
SO MUCH FOR THIS BEING A CUSH ASSIGNMENT.
HA!
MAN, DIAMONDBACK MADE BAIL?
I GUESS WE KNOW WHAT THE PUNISHER'S DOING TONIGHT.
WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE, BOYS!

I MEAN IT.
WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
NOW, WE TALKED ABOUT THIS, *HAMMERHEAD.*
AND I SAID, AS LONG AS I FEEL *COMFORTABLE* WITH THE SITUATION, *I'D* GO ALONG WITH IT.
DIAMONDBACK IS OUT ON THE STREET, AND ALL OF AS SUDDEN, I AIN'T COMFORTABLE WITH THIS SITUATION NO MORE.

THERE'S A GANG WAR COMIN'!
AND IT'S COMIN' TONIGHT!
YOU GUYS CAN STAY, BUT WE'RE STAYING, TOO.
OH! *WE* CAN STAY?
MR. HAMMERHEAD, ANY COMMENTS ON DIAMONDBACK'S RELEASE?

YEAH, THIS WHOLE TOWN'S @#$@#$@# #@#$@#!!
#$#$%^#$% @#@#$%!!
EXPLETIVE DELETED.
GOT IT.

I'D GO HOME, URICH. DIAMONDBACK IS FREE AND AIN'T NO ONE SAFE.
THIS IS THE LAST PLACE I'D BE.
"AND SO, HERE WE ARE... IN A KINGPIN WAR."

AND ME WITHOUT MY TOMMY GUN.
I KNOW I SAID I'D NEVER CALL IN THIS PARTICULAR FAVOR, AND I REALLY MEANT IT WHEN I SAID SO...
BUT I THOUGHT, THIS--*THIS* IS CRAZY-PANTS.
AND WHEN I THINK CRAZY-PANTS...

DEADPOOL
...I THINK
AWWW, YOU MAKE MY TINGLE-MAKER ALL TINGLY.
OKAY, DEAL TIME, MISS JONES: YOU MARRY ME AND I'LL BE YOUR SLAVEBOY.
I'M ALREADY MARRIED.
HOW ABOUT YOU AND LUKE CAGE BOTH MARRY ME AND--?
GANG WAR.
CRAZY-PANTS GANG WAR.
HELP US AND YOU AND I ARE SQUARE.
ROB LOWE VOICE: THAT IS LITERALLY THE BEST OFFER I HAVE HAD IN THE LAST 19 PAGES.
ALIAS
INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES
FLIX

OH, HI.
THAT LAWYER IS GOOD.
HE'S THE BEST.
YOU CALLED IT--I DON'T UNDERSTAND THESE DEFENDERS.
I SHOWED THEM--I SHOWED THEM I HAVE THE BALLS TO WALK RIGHT UP TO THEIR FRONT DOOR AND BLOW THEIR ASSES AWAY.
AND THEY DIDN'T FLINCH.
I TOLD YOU, THAT DOES NOT WORK WITH THEIR KIND.
IT NEVER HAS.
I GAVE YOU THAT INFORMATION FOR A MORE SUBTLE PLAY.
I KNOW I MADE MORE NOISE THAN YOU WANTED, BUT--BUT I NEEDED TO PLANT MY FLAG.
NO, NO.
THE NOISE IS FANTASTIC.
IT KEEPS EVERYONE BUSY.
BUT YOU DO NEED TO TIGHTEN THE ENDS NOW. BOTTLE IT UP.
THERE ARE NEW PLAYERS COMING IN AT EVERY TURN. A LITTLE CHAOS IS GOOD. TOO MUCH AND THIS CAN ALL FALL APART QUICKLY...
NEW PLAYERS?
ELEKTRA NATCHIOS IS IN NEW YORK CITY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS.
DOESN'T MEAN IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH US...
UH-HUH.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
SECOND WIND. I'M--I'M READY TO TAKE IT ALL ON.
GOOD. I TOLD YOU, THERE WOULD BE ADJUSTMENTS.
FOR BOTH OF US...
I, UH, I COULD USE SOME MORE...OF THE GOOD STUFF.
I CAN MAKE THAT HAPPEN.
BUT TELL ME...

IN PRISON, IN COURT, TO THE POLICE...
...HAS ANYONE EVEN HINTED AT A CONNECTION BETWEEN US?
DID ANYONE MENTION THE NAME WILSON FISK?
NEXT ISSUE: KINGPIN WAR

We want to hear from you! Send your letters to MHEROES@MARVEL.COM marked "OKAY TO PRINT," or tweet us using the hashtags #DefendersComic and #OKtoprint for a chance to see your tweet printed in future issues!

THE HEROES IN THE SKY KEEP US SAFE FROM ABOVE. BUT WHO KEEPS US SAFE ON THE GROUND? IN THE STREETS? WELL, FOR STARTERS...
...JESSICA JONES.
ONCE A SUPER HERO NAMED JEWEL AND NOW...
...A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR. HER HUSBAND...
...LUKE CAGE.
FRAMED FOR A CRIME HE DIDN'T COMMIT, CAGE WAS THE SUBJECT OF MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS THAT MADE HIM BULLETPROOF.
HE BECAME A SUPER HERO...

...AND FOUGHT CRIME ALONGSIDE DANNY RAND. DANNY WAS TRAINED IN THE MYSTIC CITY OF K'UN-LUN AND GAINED THE POWER OF THE...
...IRON FIST.
AND LASTLY...
...MATT MURDOCK.
BLINDED BY RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL AS A CHILD, MATT DEVELOPED RADAR-LIKE SENSES, ALLOWING HIM TO ANTICIPATE EVERY MOMENT IN HIS ENVIRONMENT.
HE PRACTICES LAW BY DAY, AND BY NIGHT, HE'S...
...DAREDEVIL.
THESE FOUR HEROES HAVE TEAMED UP TO TAKE BACK THE STREETS OF NEW YORK CITY BLOCK BY BLOCK.
TOGETHER, THEY ARE...

ROBBIE THOMPSON
WRITER

PERE PÉREZ
ARTIST

RUTH REDMOND
COLOR ARTIST

VC'S CORY PETIT
LETTERER

KATHLEEN WISNESKI
ASSISTANT EDITOR

DARREN SHAN
EDITOR

ZONE